The TAHRIK-i-JADID

Regd. No. L 7676

Wafa 1351——Jamadi-us-Sani 1392——July 1972

Editor: NASEEM SA FI

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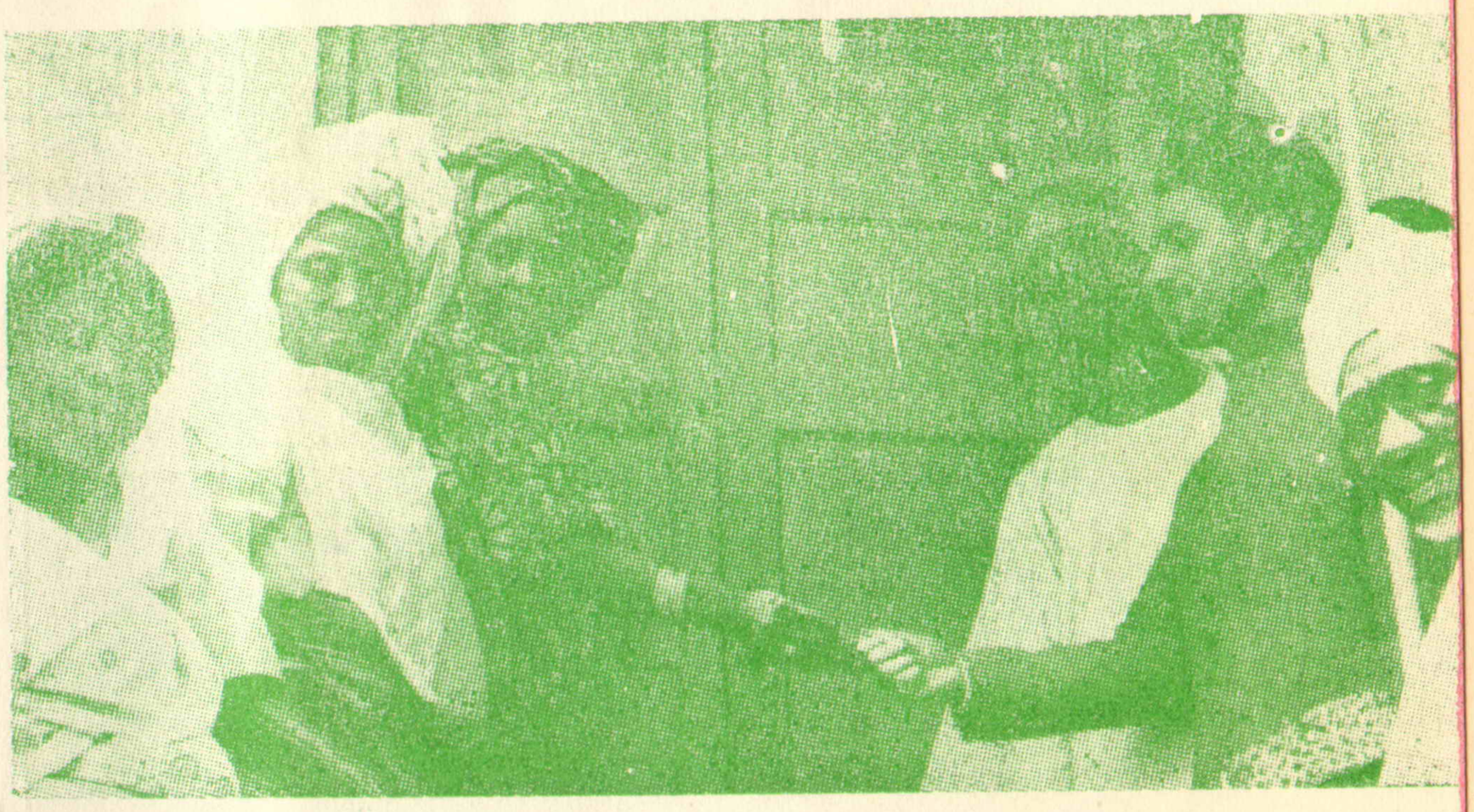
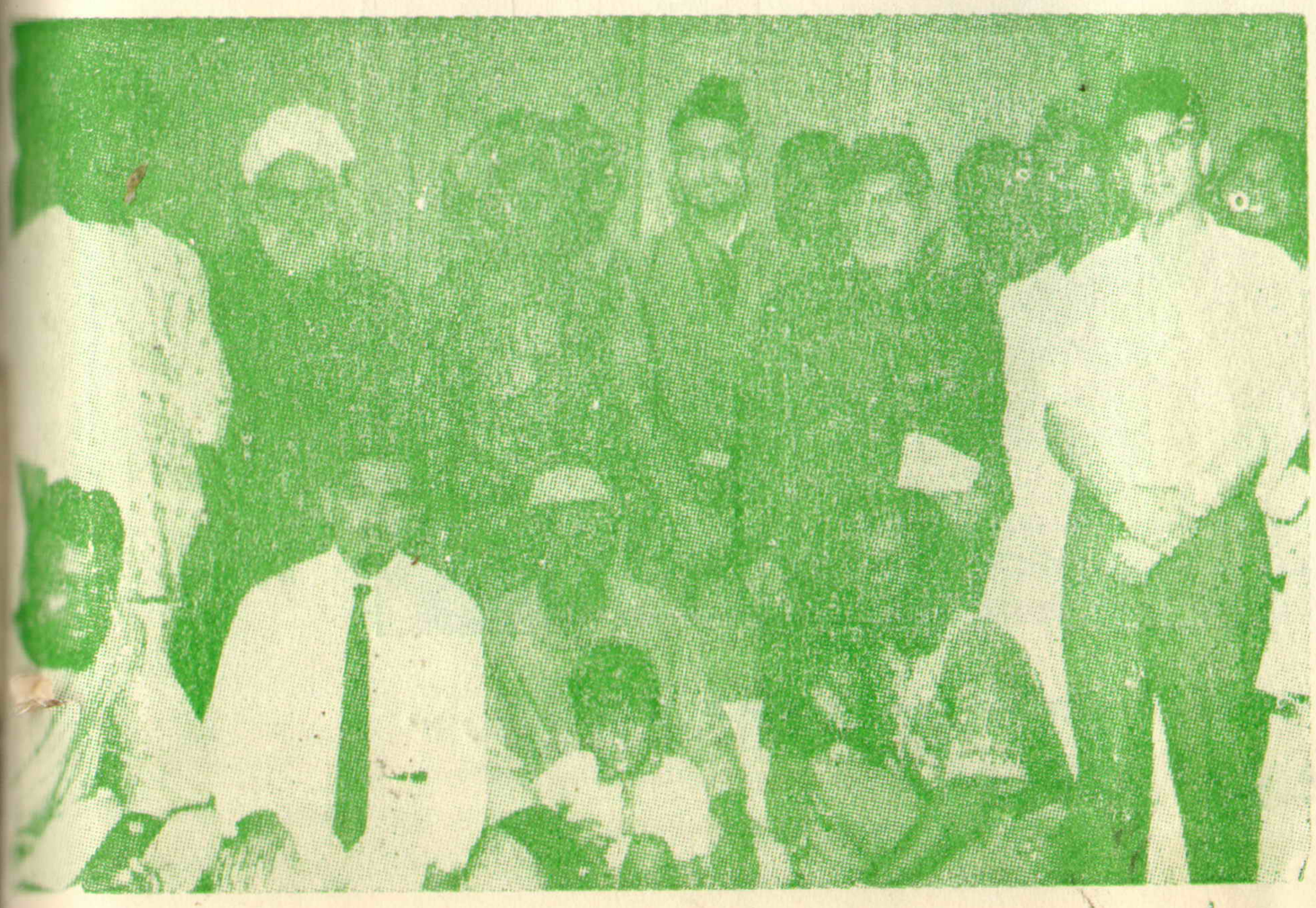


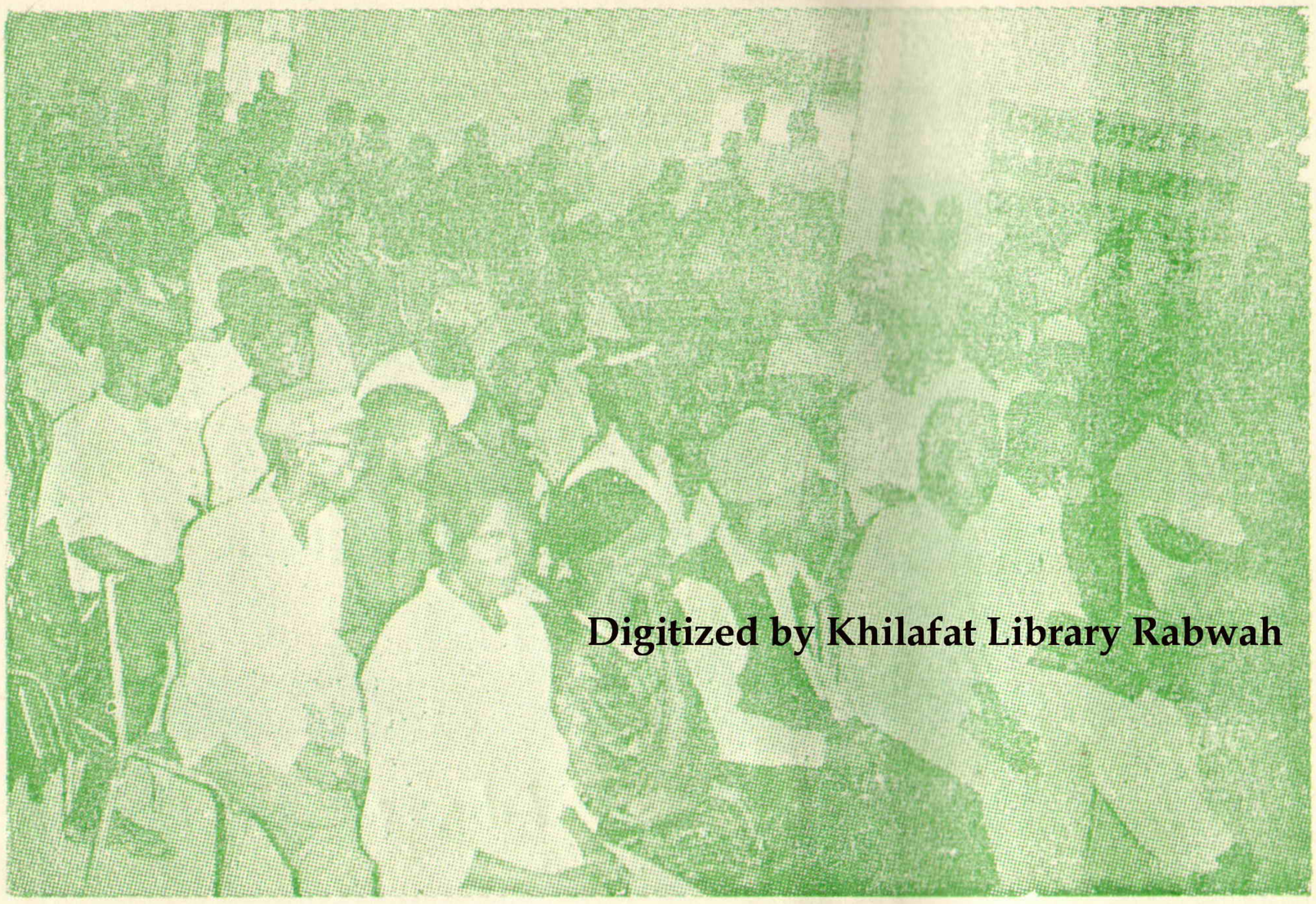
Maulana Mohammad Ajmal Shahid
is seen receiving the
key of the mosque from
Mrs. Sariya Agbaje.

مکرم مولانا محمد اجمل صاحب شاہد
مسجد کی چابی لے رہے ہیں۔



After handing over the key
of the mosque to Maulana Ajmal,
the respected lady posed with
some members of the Jamaat.

مسجد کی چابی دئے جانے کی
تقریب کے بعد



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Twentythird
Annual Conferer ce
of the
Ahmadiyya Jamaat,
Sierraleone.

احمدیہ جماعت سیرالیون

کے

تیئسویں سالانہ جلسہ

کی ایک تصویر

Mallam Wazıri Abdu, a prominent Nigerian Ahmadi is seen in this picture aadre-sing the Annual Conference of the Ahmadiyya Jamaats held recently.

مکرم وزیری عبدو صاحب نائیجیریا میں جماعت احمدیہ کی سالانہ کانفرنس
میں تقریر کر رہے ہیں

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

MONTHLY

Tahrik-i-Jadid

RABWAH

Vol. IX | July 1972 | No. 7

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The

TAHRIK-I-JADID

A magazine for reporting the day to day progress of Islamic Missions all over the world. It also tells you how religious confrontation is taking place and where and how Islam is winning converts.

This Magazine also carries the gist of the Friday Sermons and other speeches made by the Supreme Head of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat—Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III—and reports the events taking place at the International Headquarters of the Jamaat—Rabwah—Pakistan.

The subscription of the Magazine is only Two Rupees for one year in Pakistan and India and seven shillings or one Dollar abroad. Address communications to the Editor at the following address :

c/o Tahrik-i-Jadid, Rabwah. (Pakistan)

or c/o Ahmadiyya Mission in your own country—to be redirected by the Mission concerned.

Managing Editor

Malfoozat

Fruit of Prayer

The Promised Messiah peace be on him, says, "The fruits of prayer and fasting are granted here and in this world but it is vitally important that the prayer, the fasting and other acts of worship should be of such a high standard that they really become deserving of blessings. You should try to be like the companions of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him. You should offer true and perfect obedience to the Holy Prophet. Then you will be able to realise what blessings accure from these acts of worship. The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, says, "Do you think that Abu Bakr (may God be pleased with him) attained to this status through his prayer, fasting and charity. No, not all. He has attained to this status through what is in his heart (Sincerity)." In fact, it is through this very thing (sincerity) that prayer, fasting and other acts of worship become worth their name. The high places that the Godly people were able to attain was in no case due to their mere acts of worship, for, that is the thing in which others also do not lag behind The mosques are full of people. The life of a worldly person is a life of low desires. Such people do not eschew dirt. Their acts of worship have no life in them. But when a man comes out of this dirty atmosphere, his acts of worship become sincere. He gets away from every kind of uncleanliness.

(Malfoozat vol VIII p 383.)

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FROM HAZRAT'S TALKS

In a Khutba of Nikah delivered on the 3rd of May, 1972, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih drew the attention of the audience to the fact that human actions when looked at collectively can never be said to be free from sin, short coming or default and negligence. Man is bound to falter through his inherent weakness or his low desires. Huzur said, "This is why God has guided us to be seeking His shelter against the evil deeds. We should be asking for forgiveness and never think that we are free from sin, negligence or shortcoming. The life that is to last forever and which is the joint product of the body and spiritual life, can really and truly sustain itself and maintain its beauty and the power of doing good to others only if we do not arrogate sinlessness to ourselves nor do we assert that we are free from all kinds of faults. This is the basis of the true and beautiful life which is dear to God and this also is the basis of a pleasent matrimonial life. We have witnessed it so often tha the husband does not admit his faul t and the wife also insists on her word. The husband says that he has not made the mistake and the wife says that he certainly has committed the mistake. At times this kind of seemingly minor things end up in a fiasco. Since the basis of our life is that we are not totally sinless, then instead of accusing some-one else of being "sinner" why should you not admit that you are the one liable to commit sin. This expression of humility will bring you reward and your home atmosphere will become pleasant".

In the end Huzur prayed that everybody may be granted understanding of this fact of life and our relationships that have come into existence through God, may always remain pleasant.

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A brief report of the

MAJLIS-I-SHOORA

(1972)

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When the question of the possible restrictions on the Ahmadis to perform Haj came up, Huzur remarked that if ever the Ahmadis were disallowed to perform Haj, there would arise an opportunity for greater blessings, for, more the Ahmadis would crave to go there, the greater would be their reward. The Kaaba actually and truly belongs to us. If we are ever hindered from going there it would be creating a likeness with the circumstances under which the Holy Prophet was also stopped from worshipping there.

What we can do is to pray to God; this is the most beautiful and most effective weapon that has been placed in our hands. It is with this weapon that we can successfully fight our enemies and bring them to nought. Huzur said that he had issued instructions to go through the pages of history and find out as to when and in what circumstances the Haj was ever not performed by the people. Of course, he added, when it comes to our turn, we will tell everybody—even our opponents—to make the fullest use of the Kaaba.

Talking of the undesirable customs Huzur remarked that this was really dirt which must be removed. He was he said about to tackle this subject effectively very soon. The dirt he said could be removed in two ways. One way is to remove it as a fly is removed from the milk or from something else. The other way is that the thing should not absorb the dirt at all, as is the case with honey. There is no dirt that can mix with honey. Talking about the new generation, he said he was very pleased to note that they were improving every way and they were growing up to be better human beings.

When the report of the Agriculture Committee was read, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said that there were a lot of internal as well as external pressures and it was of vital importancc that the beneficial pressures must be accepted and every body must be given his rights. The farmer and the landlord as well as the labourer and those who are in a position to hire the labour, must perform their duty and whatever Islam gives them, noboby should try to deprive them of it. He further remarked that they had not got much of authority to mend things at this stage but there was abundance of sincerity and that is what must be put to use for the benefit of mankind to its utmost capacity.

"We have not to struggle only for ourselves" Huzur said, "we have to take care of others also. We do not ask for any reward; for us is to work for the good of every human being. We have to give all the necessary advice and we have to put them on the right path. Even if the people may not like what we do, so far as we know that we are working for their good, we shall continue struggling for their welfare. We know it for certain that with our sincere efforts we are going to win the hearts of all and sundry.

The question of those who become imbalanced after having made the Will (Wasiyyat) was also raised. Hazrat said that in truth the one

making the Will does not enter into a pledge or a contract with the Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya, he does so with God."

The question of the imbalanced persons needed to be looked into more carefully, he said, and therefore he constituted a sub committee to go into this matter and present the report of their findings at the next Majlis-Shoora.

Huzur laid great emphasis on the printing of the Holy Quran and making it reach every hand. He remarked that a plan had been made to publish the Holy Quran with various translations and without translation. It was, he said, the duty of the whole Jamaat to see to the successful implementation of this plan. Huzur said, "We will not permit the Jamaat and the Holy Quran to be estranged from each other. You should make up your mind that you will always continue to learn the Holy Quran because without this great Book our lives are no lives at all; our true and real life becomes soulless without the Holy Quran.

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Huzur also made mention of the Broadcasting Station that is going to be set up in Nigeria. He said, "There is a good news for you. The application has moved forward and it has reached the stage where the Nigeria Government is seriously thinking over its acceptance. As for us we are anxious to see that a station (Broadcasting) as big as the biggest in the world that entertains the people with meaningless songs, should be installed by us at the earliest. And through this Broadcasting station we should be able to preach the message of God."

He asked everybody to join him in prayers for the early installation of the Station.

Coming to the situation in Pakistan Huzur told the audience that some people were clamouring to get it written into the National Constitution that Ahmadis were not Muslims.

Huzur said, "Let me tell all such people that they are bound to fail as they have been failing for the past 70 years. They will never succeed. Let me also tell the Government that the State is no Mufti to declare anyone a Muslim or otherwise. If the Government ever committed the blunder of writing any such thing in the constitution they will be inviting catastrophe for the country and the nation. There will be no happiness and joy in the country on the issuance of the fatwas of kufr by the Governament. It will only create sorrow and anguish. It will be going against the commandments of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him. It is he who said that a true Muslim is he whose tongue or hands do not offend any other Muslim. Moreover those who will issue such a Fat'a will go out of the fold of Islam because of this act of theirs.

Huzur said that the people were talking of these fatwas because they knew that we would not create any disorder. But they must remember that if it came to a confrontation, it would not take the Ahmadis more than ten days to prove to their opponents that the stuff they are made of is different and harder. The opponents may become at the most thorns in our way but in no case they can prove to be a wall that may obstruct our progress.

(The end)

★ ★ ★ ★

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Rabwah Diary

The Tibbiyya College, Rabwah is a very useful institution run by the Jamaat for the benefit of all and sundry. Ahmadi and non Ahmadi students alike join this institution and uphold its prestige for the good of the country. It is headed by Mr. Nazir Ahmad Sajid.

Recently the said institution held its prize distribution function with Maulana Abul Ata as the Chief Guest who also distributed the prizes. The function was started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Mohammad Heera Arshad. He was followed by Mohammad Ishaq Zafar who recited a poem of the Muslih-i-Maud, may God be pleased with him. Hakim Mohammad Aslam Faruqi, a lecturer at the College, read out the report of the activities of the College during the year.

After distribution of the prizes Maulana Abul Ata addressing the audience said, "The Holy Quran tells us that whoever is given 'hikmat' is certainly given good."

He further remarked that there were two kinds of knowledge in the world: one, that concerns religious and spiritual life of human beings and two, the one that deals with the physical well-being. The two of them, he said, were of great importance to all of us, for, one looks after our spirit while the other takes care of our physical health.

He drew the attention of the audience to the fact that the physician had great opportunity for helping mankind in his distress and that is what God likes most. It really brings him blessings and gives him a longer lease of life for as the Holy Quran says: *Amma ma yanfa unnasa fa yamkoso fil arzi* i.e. whatever proves itself useful to human beings, is made to stay for a longer period of time. He also advised the students of the College that when they start practising medicine they should make it a habit of theirs to pray for their patients in addition to giving them the best of the prescriptions.

A Group photograph wound up the function. Present among others were the Principal of the Jamia Ahmadiyya who was the first Principal of the Tibbya College and the Vakil-ut-Ta'lim.

Mosque for Jamia

The Jamia Ahmadiyya, (Missionary Training College) is going to have a mosque of its own very soon. The foundation stone of the Mosque was laid by Sahibzada Mirza Mansoor Ahmad, the local Amir, on July 1. After he had fixed the first brick in the Foundation, some others who were asked by the Principal Sayed Daud Ahmad, to do the some were Maulana Abul Ata, Qazi Mohammad Nazir, M. Ata Mohammad (who is a companion of the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, and teaches Urdu to the foreign students at the Jamia) and the Vakilut-Talim.

After the laying of the foundation stone, refreshments were offered to all those present and the function was brought to a close with a joint silent prayer.

Notes & Comments

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Rightness of Faith

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II says :—

"The first pre-requisite for Taqwa (righteousness, fear of God) is the rightness of faith. The Holy Quran tells us that one of the signs of a true believer is that he has faith in the Unseen. The question as to how one can become Muttaqi (God fearing) arises in everybody's mind. We should know that the first thing that is required in this respect is faith in the Unseen. That is, faith in God, Angels, Day of Judgment, and the Messengers of God. One should also have faith in the beneficial results of faith in the Unseen. That also is a part of faith. We cannot see God, Angels, Day of Judgment and the Messengership. The Holy Quran has supplied us with proofs of all this, and these proofs are so undeniable that one cannot do but accept them. But there are some who do not think over these things and the result is that now a days people laugh at faith in the unseen. Some pepole laugh at those who believe in God. They say: How strange, despite the fact that you are an educated person, you profess faith in God. They also mock at the Day of Judgment and the reward of good or bad deeds. The Angels bring the messages from God and so also they bring the laws of religion. All these are basic truths, but the people laugh at them. It must be remembered that all these things are like a chain and he who ignores even one link of this chain will be deprived of the benefit of faith. This also is a part of faith in the Unseen that one should believe in the good result of the good deeds, and this is really what is termed as trust in God. If someone gives ten seers (20 pounds) of wheat flour to a poor fellow and he hopes to be rewarded for it by God, he actually displays faith in the Unseen, for he does not do this, for any immediate gain rather he does so because he has faith in the Unseen. We can even go to the extent of saying that he who does not believe in the existence of God, if he also does any such good deed he does so because of his faith in the unseen. For example if someone helps a poor fellow because he likes to do some good to the nation, he also performs this act because he believes that if his family ran into bad days others will help him or his people. The fact is that all the progress is linked with the faith in the Unseen. The huge tasks do not produce immediate results and who can deny that such things as do not produce immediate results can be taken in hand only by those who are very courageous people.

It is the faith in the unseen that can urge a man to make sacrifices.

Ahmadiyyat in West Africa

Mr. Abdul Wahab Bin Adam who is here on a refresher course attended a Jalsa of the Jamaat at Peshawar and addressed the audience in English. In his address Mr. Abdul Wahab told the audience the part that Ahmadiyyat was playing in Ghana in the uplift of the Muslims in particular and the rest of the people in general. He talked of the wholesome effect of the

Ahmadiyya Schools in all the nooks and corners of the country and remarked that even those who did not belong to the community greatly appreciated the Educational Services of the Jamaat. The Dispensaries that have now been opened under the auspices of the Nusrat Jahan Scheme are also attracting the attention of the people very greatly, Mr. Wahab told the audience. He further remarked that the basic point that had drawn the attention of the Ghanaians was that whatever the Jamaat was doing was sincere and with the sole object of helping the country without any motives. It is emphatically said by the Africans everywhere that the Christian Missions gave them the Bible with one hand and took away their lands with the other hand. The Ahmadiyya Jamaat is very sincere in its service to the people of the land.

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Mr. Abdul Wahab also explained to the audience to some extent, as to how the Christian Missionaries tried to convert the people to their fold. They used the Educational and Medical fields to the fullest extent.

However he said, that since the Jamaat had started the Schools and the Dispensaries the work of the Christian Missions had started suffering greatly—and that was to the advantage of all the Muslims.

Later at another function. Mr. Abdul Wahab was asked to address the audience in Urdu, which he did with admirable fluency.

14th century Medical Pipe Dream

It is the undeniable right of the followers of every religion to try to convince others that their religion is the best and they should be converted to it. But the means of convincing must be fair. It is repulsive to human conscience that unfair means be used for such a noble cause. Below we reproduce a passage from a book, which describes one of the methods the Christian Missions used to convert the Muslims of the Arab lands and behold how unfair were the means used by them :

"Whatever Salerno may or may not have done, England in 1307 lost a wonderful opportunity to set up the first medical school in the world exclusively for women. It was one of those wildly improbable schemes that were thought up from time to time in the days of those incredible expeditions, the Crusades. And it was a plan to end the necessity for Crusades for ever : ideological dream of the 14th century. It was fathered by Pierre de Bois lawyer to Philip le Bell of France and was presented to Edward I of England in 1307. Its purpose was to provide a fifth column of higly trained, desirable young women who should infiltrate the infidel countries of the East, marry the men in high places and by their virtues and medical skill convert them to Christianity : female medical missionaries in excelsis in fact.

"It was suggested that girls of 4 to 5 years old should be trained in the religion, being taught enough Latin, Greek and Hebrew to understand the Scriptures. Arabia was, of course, necessary to converse with their intended converts. Then would follow natural science, medicine skill these maidens could gain the confidence of those among whom they worked. It was taken for granted, it seems, that the eastern potentates, overwhelmed with the beauty, virtue, sagacity and skill of the invading force would marry them all, and hey presto, the whole of their lands would embrace Christianity. A lovely dream. How one would like to know what that hardheaded and practical monarch, Edward I, thought

(and said) when it was expounded to him.

(Some women practitioners of past centuries)

By J. Elise Gordon, O.B.E. M.A.

vide the practitioner

No. 1246 vol. 208,

April, 1972.

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Mosque Donation

Maulana Mohammad Ajmal Shahid, Amir and Missionary in charge, Ahmadiyya Jamaat Nigeria reports that a beautiful mosque has been donated to the Jamaat by a wealthy lady who is the daugher of a Chief at Ibadan.

Since the West African tour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III, there has been a strong wave of awakening among the Muslims. They have realised more than ever before that the Jamaat is really serving the cause of Islam and it is helping the Muslims in all the ways that it can.

The handing over of the key of the mosque was done at a function arranged by the Ibadan Jamaat for this purpose. Present at the function were a large number of the members of the Jamaat as well as those who have not yet joined the Community but have sympathetic inclination towards it.

The Donor Alhaja Surayya Agbaje, expressed great pleasure at her ability to build the mosque and to hand over to an active Jamaat which is doing so much for the Muslims.

Maulana Ajmal in his own address outlined the need and the place of the mosque in the Muslim society. He also told the audience that though the mosque apparently belonged to the Ahmadiyya Jamaat, its doors would, always remain open for all those who wished to worship one and the only God. He prayed to God that the mosque may always remain full to its capacity with the sincere worshippers.

When the key was handed over to Maulana Ajmal, the audience shouted the slogans Allaho Akbar, Islam Zindabad and Ahmadiyyat Zindabad.

Mr. Bhutto in Lagos

Ahmadiyya Jamaat stands for the progress of Islam. Despite the fact that it does not dabble into politics it always keeps a keen eye on the general advancement of the Muslims all over the world. Pakistan being the stronghold of Islam, Ahmadis of all the countries of the world have great regard for it. That is why wherever President Bhutto goes, the members of the Jamaat—the Pakistanis and the local inhabitants—take him as their own Leader and receive him with great enthusiasm. When recently President Bhutto visited Nigeria, the following Address was presented to him, by the Ahmadiyya Jamaat.

The Address is followed by a report of his visit in the Daily Times.

The Address

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon you.

On behalf of the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Nigeria, which is a branch of the world wide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community with their Headquarters at Rabwah—Pakistan, I have great pleasure in heartily welcoming you, on the auspicious occasion of your first official visit to Nigeria. Though your stay is very short, we hope that it will enhance more the already existing fraternal ties between both countries. Recently Nigeria has extended unflinching support to Pakistan's unity and territorial integrity against the Indian sponsored secessionist movement in E. Pakistan. So it is most befiting on your part, that inspite of your heavy pressure of work, you spared some time to thank the government and people of Nigeria personally. We wish and pray for your successful mission here and in other countries.

The members of Ahmadiyya Mission have great love for Pakistan, because from this country. we are getting a spiritual light which has illumined our

hearts. The Ahmadiyya Missionaries, who are coming from Pakistan, have played a magnificent role for the upliftment of Muslims and the people in general. So Ahmadis have great esteem and love for Pakistan and everyone is happy to receive you here.

May Allah enable you to lead Pakistan on the road of unity and prosperity.

Cheers and Garlands as Bhutto Flies Lagos

By Dapo Aderinola
(The Daily Times, Lagos, Nigeria, January, 5, 1972)

President Ali Bhutto of Pakistan flew into a red-carpet welcome in Lagos last night.

A 21-gun salute boomed as the august guest and his wife, Begum, emerged from his special aircraft. Moments later, he was greeted with a warm hug by smiling General Gowon.

And not even the drizzle could dampen the warmth and the sheer pageantry at Ikeja Airport as President Bhutto inspected a smart guard-of-honour, met members of the Federal Executive Council and shook hands with a long line of diplomats.

A large crowd of gaily-dressed Pakistanis and Nigerians thronged the tarmac—cheering, clapping and waving banners. Some of the banners read: "Long live Pakistan-Nigeria friendship".

The first round of ceremonies over, the beaming President and his charming wife, resplendent in multi-coloured Pakistani attire, turned to his countrymen. Arms raised, he greeted them: "Asalam-alaikum" (peace be unto you). In return, he got resounding replies of "Wa-alaikum-salam" (peace be unto you, too).

Pleasure

Rounds of ovation followed. Children broke into a special "merry-round" of a display.

Then as General Gowon smiled his pleasure, the head of State, President Bhutto and Mrs. Bhutto were all decorated with garlands by the head of the Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya Moslem Mission in Nigeria, Maulvi Mohammad Ajmal Shahid.

The august visitor was then escorted into the VIP chalet before being cheered out of the festive airport.

And it was a scene of spontaneous hand-waving and greetings for the entourage all the way into Lagos Island.

Long before the Pakistani Airlines Boeing 707 plane came in sight, stringent security measures had been clamped down on the airport and surroundings.

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Troops

All roads leading to the airport sealed to unauthorised persons while even accredited Pressmen were thoroughly frisked before being allowed entry.

Tense looking troops, armed with rifles had taken strategic positions while police dogs patrolled the surrounding country-side.

Later last night, President and Mrs. Bhutto were guests at a private State dinner party given at Dodan Barracks by General Gowon and Mrs. Victoria Gowon.

Formal discussions on matters of mutual interest to their countries were scheduled to follow between the two leaders.

President Bhutto, who flew in from Khartoum, Sudan, leaves today for Conakry, Guinea, in continuation of his 10-day visit to friendly African countries which started since May 29.

Just before he leaves Nigeria, the august visitor will address newsmen at Ikeja Airport today.

He will return to Pakistan on Saturday, after visiting Mauritania and Turkey.

★ ★

The Muslim World

Mr. Z. A. Bhutto, President of Pakistan with some of his officials went to India, in the middle of the last week of June, to have a summit meeting with Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of that country. During the talks it seemed that the dead lock would not be broken and Mr. Bhutto might have to go back without anything having achieved for peace in the continent. Everybody was pessemistic. But at the Dinner arranged by Mr. Bhutto in honour of Mrs. Indira Gahndi, further talks were held and an agreement was signed by the two leaders. In it, they agreed to withdraw the forces from all over the border except the Kashmir front within 30 days after the ratification of the Agreement by the Pakistan National Assembly. As for the forces on the Kashmir border, the Indian officials will soon visit Pakistan for further discussions.

★ ★

Volley Ball

The Malis-i-Sihhat(the society for the promotion of health) arranged a tournament of Volley Ball at the grounds of the T. I. High School. Fourteen teams participated.

The final was played between the Sadr Block and Rahmat Block. The Sadr Block had the upper hand and was therefore declared the champion of the tournament. In the absence of Hazrat Khalifa-tul-Masih who could not grace the finals (where he was expected) because of his indisposition, Maulana Abul Ata distributed the prizes to the Winners and the Runners up.

The report of the tournament was read by Mr. Mohammad Haroon who had acted as the Secretary for the tournament. The Prize distribution function was started by recitation of the Holy Quran by Hafiz Basharat Ahmad.

Review

CAIRO DEBATE

In order to compare the merits and demerits of any two religions, it is vitally important that we hear about them from their representatives. These representatives can bring out the good points of their respective religions and also show the shortcomings of the religion professed by the other side, if any. That is what happens in a debate.

Cairo Debate was held between a representative of Islam—Maulana Abul Ata, the veteran missionary of the Ahmadiyya Movement, and representative of Christianity" The readers of this book can easily understand how and why Islam is superior to Christianity and why the Missionaries of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at go about all over the world with so great a confidence in the last message of God—the Holy Quran—which is the main source of the teachings of Islam.

We suggest that you read this book yourself and also give a copy of it to a Christian friend of yours.

The book can be had for 3 Shillings from

MAKTABA AL-FURQAN

Baitul Ata, Darur Rahmat Wasti,
Rabwah, West Pakistan.

It can also be had from

O. R. P. Co., LTD.,
Rabwah, W. Pakistan.

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A Death in Jerusalem

(Time, January 18, 1972)

It was a time of great unrest and turmoil in ancient Judea. Restive under the rule of pagan Rome, the Jews of Palestine in the 1st century A. D. repeatedly defied their conquerors with covert gestures of opposition and open acts of rebellion. The Roman response was usually swift and cruel. Perhaps because he participated in one of these uprisings or committed some other grievous offense in the eyes of Jerusalem's stern rulers, a young Judean named Yehohanan (a Hebrew form of John) was sentenced to death. Like thousands of other Jews—including Jesus of Nazareth—who were also condemned by the Roman procurators during those turbulent years, Yehohanan died slowly and painfully on the cross.

First Evidence. Yehohanan's death was quickly forgotten. No documents have ever been found that record his crime or recall his crucifixion. Yet, after nearly 2,000 years he has now suddenly and sensationally reemerged from the dustbins of history. Last week Israeli archaeologists announced that they had identified the remains of the unfortunate young man and found c'ear evidence of his grisly execution.

The Israeli scholars, who studied the find for more than two years before making their announcement, were understandably cautious. What they uncovered and authenticated is the first firm physical evidence of an actual crucifixion in the ancient Mediterranean world. Although history records that this form of punishment was continued by the Romans until the 4th century A. D. (when it was finally outlawed by the Emperor Constantine I, who legalized Christianity in the empire), the only previous physical evidedce of cruciflxion was extremely tenuous. It consisted of a few bones, excavated in Italy and Rumania, containing holes in the forearms and heels that could have been made during crucifixions. But there was never any trace of the nails that might have been used to penetrate the body of the victim and fasten him to the cross.

The new archaeological evidence, a byproduct of intense excavation and building activities by the Israelis in the territories they conqured in the Six-Day war, is far more substantial. In June 1968, a year after Israeli troops occupied all of Jerusalem, workmen began bulldozing a rocky hillside more than a mile north of the Old City's Damascus Gate in preparation for putting up a modern apartment-house complex. They discovered almost immediately that the site, called Giv'at ha-Mivtar (meaning Hill of the Divide), was honeycombed with burial caves dating back to biblical times.

Summoned by Israel's Department of Antiquities and Museums, Archoeologist Vasilius Tzaferis quickly pried open the lids of 15 ossuaries, or stone coffins, which held the skeletons of 35 people—eleven men, twelve women and twelve children. At least five of the Judeans had met violent deaths. But Tzaferis was especially intrigued by what he found in one ossuary, which contained the bones of a child about three or four years old and those of an adult whose name — Yehohanan —was inscribed in barely legible Aramaic letters on the outside. The man's heel bones were penetrated by

the rusty remains of a 7-in. long nail.

From these fragile bones, a Rumanian-born anatomist and anthropologist at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, Nicu Haas, was able to put together a surprisingly detailed picture of the young man : in his mid-20s at the time of his death, he was of average height for the period (5 ft. 5 in.), had delicate, pleasing features that seemed to approach the Hellenistic ideal probably wore a beard, and apparently had never performed any really arduous labour—indicating his possible upper class origins. Except for the injuries inflicted during his crucifixion, he seemed to have been in exceptionally fine health. His only deformities were a slight cleft palate and a barely perceptible asymmetry of the skull, possibly a sign of a difficult birth.

Crooked Nail. The single telltale nail was preserved by an odd quirk. Because of a tough knot in the olive wood of the cross, the nail was slightly bent to the side as it was hammered into place. Later, after the young man had been given the traditional *coup de grace* (a blow that broke both legs and would have hastened the victim's death by causing hemorrhage and shock), the crooked nail apparently proved to be stubbornly embedded in the cross and hindered efforts to take down the body. The only practical way that this could be done, writes Haas in the *Israel Exploration Journal*, was "to cut the feet off and then remove the entire complex—nail, plaque of wood (which helped keep the feet in position) and feet—from the cross." Then, these severed parts were apparently immediately buried along with the rest of the body in a temporary grave ; Jewish custom forbids long exposure after death. Subsequently, Yehohanan's remains were disinterred by friends or relatives and removed to their permanent resting place outside the city, where they lay undisturbed until 1968.

The actual date of the execution was not so apparent. But from pottery and other artifacts in the cave, the Israeli scholars were able to make a rough estimate : it could have taken place as early as A.D. 7, when the Judeans rose up against the Romans to protest an official census, or as late as the final decade before the destruction of the Second Temple and the dispersion of the Jews in A.D. 70.

Jesus' Agony. The time and place of the young man's execution invited comparison to Jesus Christ's own Passion on the cross—which scholars believe took place about A.D. 30 when Jesus was in his mid-30s. But Israel's dirctor of antiquities, Avraham Biran, and a number of Christian biblical scholars were quick to warn against any attempt to identify the skeleton as that of Jesus. As Dr. Bruce Metzger of the Princeton Theolgical Seminary pointed out, "We have absolutely no knowledge of Jesus' physical stature." Moreover, the man was younger than Jesus, and the Gospels report that the Roman soldiers, in contrast to their regular practice, did not break the legs of Jesus before his death ; they thrust a lance into his side. Both the archaeologists and biblical scholars were understandably concerned. Any suggestion, however farfetched, that the body was that of Jesus would challenge two of Christianity's central beliefs : the Resurrection, the doctrine that Christ rose from the dead three days after the Crucifixion ; and the Ascension, which holds that Jesus ascended bodily into heaven 40 days later.

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Although the Giv'at ha-Mivtar finding does not add any new infor-

(Continued on page 15)

From the Newspapers

Marriage with Non-Muslims

It shocked me to read what Mr. K. Mwamzandi (Kwale East) said in Parliament raising a point of order during the Attorney-General's appeal to M.Ps to support a Bill concerning the laws of inheritance.

Mr. Mwamzandi said a Muslim could not marry a non-Muslim woman though he could have concubines. This statement is erroneous and reflects ignoranc of Islamic law. A Muslim is allowed to marry a non-Muslim woman, as has been unequivocally enunciated by the Holy Quran in the following verse :—

"And lawful for you are the chaste believing (Muslim) women and chaste women from among those who were given the Book before you, when you give them their dowries, contracting valid marriage and not committing fornication, nor taking secret paramours." (Ch. 5 : 6).

Although one should marry a woman of one's own faith so that there may be harmony in their married life, yet the allowance has been made to marry a non-believing woman.

Concubinage is adultery ; it is completely unlawful in Islam. The aforesaid verse teaches not to have secret paramours.

It is mistakenly understood that Islam allows Muslim men to have conjugal relations with their handmaids without marrying them properly. The Holy Quran rejects this nasty idea, as it is tantamount to concubinage. Islamic law concerning the hand-maids has been explicitly mentioned in the following verse :—

"And whoso of you cannot afford to marry free believing women, let him marry what your right hands possess, namely your hand-maids. God knows your faith best. So marry them with the leave of their masters and give them their dowries according to what is fair they being chaste, not committing fornication, nor taking secret paramours. (Ch. IV, Verse, 26).

Islam allows conjugal relations only after valid marriage.

JAMIL R. RAFIQ.

Nairobi, May 6, 1972.

Daily "East African Standard" Nairobi 10.5.1972

HEADS OFF ?

We reproduce below a news-item that has been published in "The Standard" Tanzania, East Africa.

"Islamabad, Monday. A PARTY leader has complained that instead of beheading Muslims who give up their faith Pakistan now plans to let them change their religion. 'If a Muslim leaves his religion, he should be beheaded—this is the greatest crime that can be committed.' Maulana Mufti Mahmud told the National Assembly.

"But, he said, such a sentence cannot be passed in predominantly Muslim Pakistan.

Maulana Mufti is slated to become Chief Minister of the North-West Frontier, as Secretary-General of the religious Jamiat Ulema Islam Party. He was speaking in the debate on the amended interim constitution."

(The "Standard" 18.4.72)

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That is how some Muslims in Pakistan present Islam to the world at large We have nothing to say about the political implications of this issue,

but we cannot lose sight of the fact that it widens the gulf between the followers of other religions and Islam. Nobody can be attracted to a set of beliefs or a way of life which gives no right of freedom to think and act according to the dictates of one's conscience.

But does really Islam demand that those who change from Islam to another faith be beheaded? If it really does, what are we going to do about the following verses of the Holy Quran:

(1) "There should be no compulsion in religion. Surely right has become distinct from wrong; so whosoever refuses to be led by those who transgress, and believes in Allah, has surely grasped a strong handle which knows no breaking. And Allah is All-Hearing, All-knowing." (2:257)

(2) "O ye who believe! whoso among you turns back from his religion, then let it be known that in his stead Allah will soon bring a people whom He will love and who will love Him, and who will be kind and humble towards believers, hard and firm agianst disbelievers. They will strive in the cause of Allah and will not fear the reproach of a fault-finder. That is Allah's grace; He bestows it upon whomsoever He pleases; and Allah is Bountiful All-knowing." (5:35)

No doubt, we do believe that it is the greatest misfortune of a person to leave Islam after having come into its fold, but we simply cannot agree with those who think that such a person should be punished by the State or the people—and the punishment should be nothing less than beheading him.

Who could have joined Islam (or remained a Muslim) if the Christians, the Jews and the Pagans (and in fact followers of other religions in the world) had been beheading all those who ever abandoned their religion and joined Islam. Had that been the case there would have been no Muslims in the world today.

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A Medical Feat (Ghana)

The Ahmadiyya Mission Hospital here achieved a medical feat early last week when a surgical specialist there was able to operate upon a girl with male and female sex organs—an HERMAPHRODITE—and removed the male sex organ for her to be a complete female.

Reporter of the "Pioneer" who arrived at the Hospital met the patient convalescing after the surgical operation; she looked hale and hearty.

A family sopkesman explained that the girl, aged 16 years, had possessed both sex organs since her infancy but despite this abnormal condition, the girl had been living happily without any complaint.

Before the surgical operation at Asokore last week, the 16 years old girl was said to be urinating through her male sex organ but after the operation, she had started urinating through the female sex organ which is left for her to possess feminine features.

According to the family sources, the condition of the girl was reported to a local hospital fourteen years ago but they were asked by a specialist to wait for about two years or more, and they did.

"Of late, we noticed that our daughter was developing a big male organ and, therefore, reported to the Okomfo Anokye Hospital where her blood specimen was taken for labo-

ratory examinations to determine the next line of action" the spokesman explained. But later on, the spokesman added, we were advised to remove the girl from the Okomfo Anokye Hospital to Asokore for the specialist there to see what he could do.

"The specialist examined her and successfully operated upon her", the spokesman narrated.

The family spokesman however pleaded that the names of the 16 year old girl, the parents and relatives must still remain anonymous.

It was learnt later that the successful surgical operation on the girls was performed by Dr. S. G. Mujtaba, a Pakistani. But he refused to confirm or deny that,

"Our work is not for press interview", the medical officer said.

Meanwhile, the case of Adobea, the sexless child at the Okomfo Anokye Hospital, is still pending.

A top medical source at the hospital has hinted that the operation on the girl be performed locally.

"The Pioneer"
15.4.72.

(*Continued from page 12*)

mation about Jesus' life, it may give added dimension to his final suffering. In classical religious art, the crucified Jesus is usually shown in an erect position, fastend to the cross by nails driven through his outstretched hands and through his feet. To some scohlars, however, that interpretation of the Crucifixion has long seemed highly implausible. With the bulk of his weight suspended from his hands the victim's body would sag ; it would become extremely difficult for the breathing muscles to function and death would almost surely follow rapidly. According to Haas' reconstruction of Yehohanan's crucifixion—which could well have been typical of those in ancient Palestine—nails were driven through the fore-arms to provide greater support and the victim's legs were twisted to one side and folded up Hass calls this a "compulsive, unnatural position." But, he explains, it would have served the purposes of the executioners very well : it would have prolonged both the victim's life and his agony.

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ANOTHER MOSQUE

(The following report has been received from Fiji)

A brief report of the opening of Mahmud Mosque, Maro, Nadroga, Fiji is given below for our esteemed journal the Tahrik-i-Jadid.

The opening took place on 6th May, 1972, at Maro, Nadroga. There was a large gathering, among whom were non-Ahmadis, our Fijian friends and well wishers. Before the opening the Amir, Maulana Mohammad Siddique read the verses of the Holy Quran which Hazrat Ibrahim and Ismail read when they were re-building the sacred Mosque at Mecca and explained their meanings. Then the Amir read the gracious message that Hazrat very kindly sent us on the occasion. He also prayed to Allah to open the hearts of the people in that area to accept Ahmadiyyat which is true Islam.

Mr. Mahboob Yusuf Khan, the General Secretary of Fiji Jamaat, thanked Allah for enabling the Maro Jamaat to complete the Mahmud Mosque. He said that this was the largest Ahmadiyya Mosque in Fiji.

Mr. Mohammad Azam Khalil, the Secretary of the Maro Jamaat briefly outlined the history of the Mosque. He also thanked the Maro Jamaat Lajna who had donated the louvre glasses, carpet, furniture and the Suva Lajna who gave a benzine light for the Mosque.

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WHO IS THE HEALER ?

by

ABDUL WAHAB ADAM

You may visit any Ahmadiyya Hospital in West Africa, and you will see it inscribed in bold letters on each Prescription Card : "He is the Healer". Who is the Healer ? Of course Allah, the Almighty !

Very highly qualified the doctors are gentle, courteous and unassuming. And if you asked them of experience, some would tell you eighteen years, and some would tell you even more !

But the amazing thing about them is despite their qualification and experience, their reliance is not so much on the medicine they administer as is on God. And why not ? Man is but human. He is forgetful. He can be faulty in diagnosing a disease, so can he err in prescribing medicine. While he does as best he can, he must turn again and again to God for guidance and assistance. And the result ? Amazing !

A man once visited one of the hospitals. He had gone there to consult the doctor about his uncle who had been seriously ill. The doctor after studying the case, prescribed some tablets. The man was disappointed. He murmured as most Ghanaians would : "Even injections could not dislodge the disease ; how would these tablets do better ?".

But the doctor assured him : "He is the Healer".

After a few days, the man called at the hospital. He had been cured completely "Miracle", you will say At least that is what the nephew of the man said, and to show the doctor that he was really impressed, he presented him a whole car !

No less a "miracle" was the case of the woman who had suffered for several years and lost hope of getting cured. When she approached another doctor of ours, the doctor suggested operation.

"Are you going to get my leg amputated ? she asked with despair clearly written on her face.

"No amputation will be involved", said the doctor.

"Forgive my asking, doctor, for that has been the opinion of many a doctor", the woman said.

They had thought the sore had developed to an advanced stage of cancer and that the germs would travel to other parts of the body if the leg was not amputated.

As the woman did not approve of amputation of her leg, she had decided to resort to native medicine. The herbalists changed one herb after the other but to no avail.

When the doctor told her that she could be cured without losing her leg, her face brightened up.

"So ?", she asked in amazement.

"Yes", said the doctor.

The operation was performed and in less than a fortnight, the operation wounds had begun to heal, and the woman had started walking !

As the woman was leaving the hospital for home she looked at the inscription on the Prescription Card ; and said :

"No doubt ; He is the Healer !"

Ahmadiyya Missionaries who were seen off at the Rabwah Railway Station recently

Mohammad Ashraf Ishaq

Mohammad Ismail Munir

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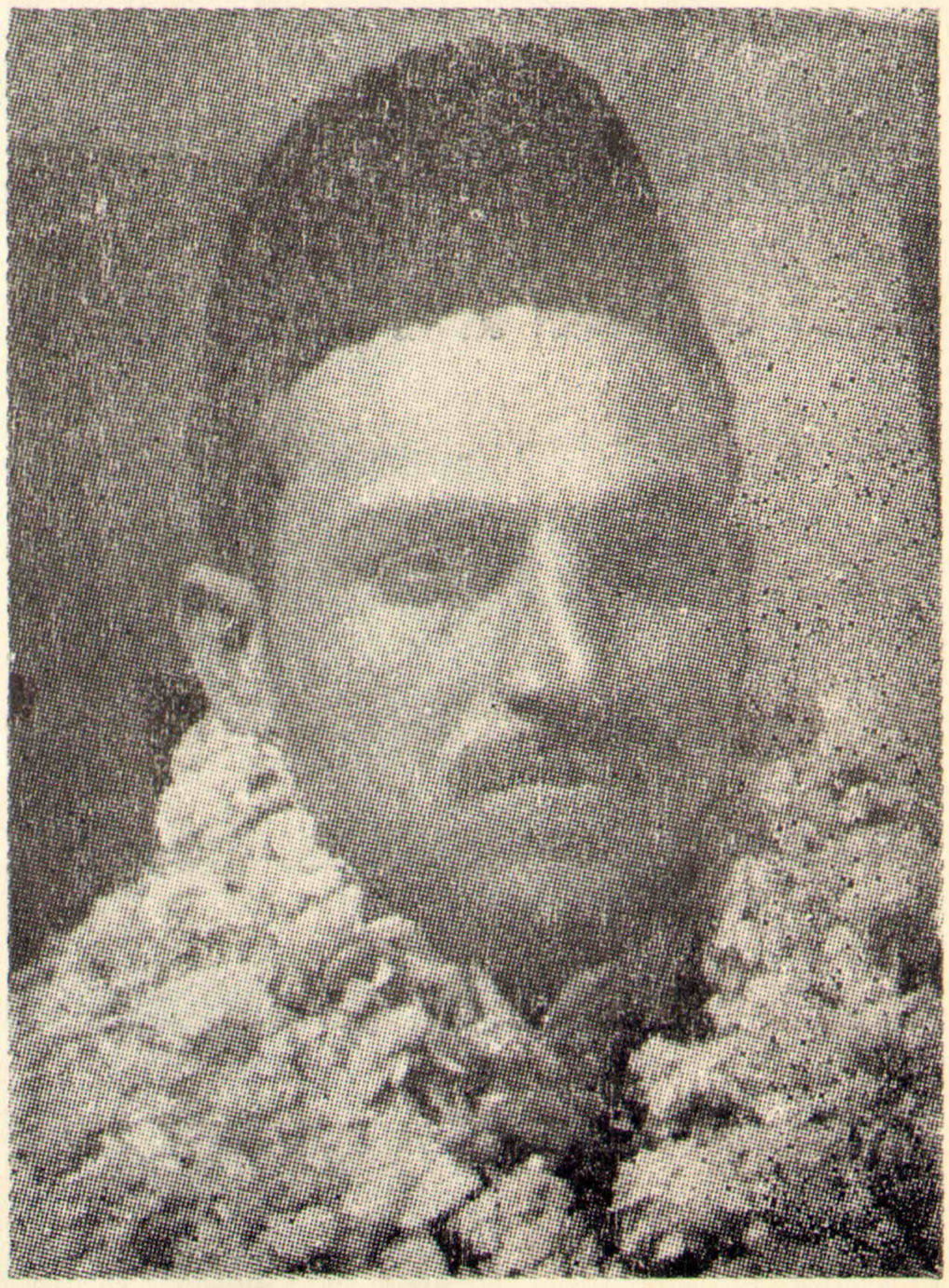
محمد اشرف اسحق صاحب

محمد اسمعیل منیر صاحب

Raja Naseer Ahmad

Majeed Ahmad Sialkoti



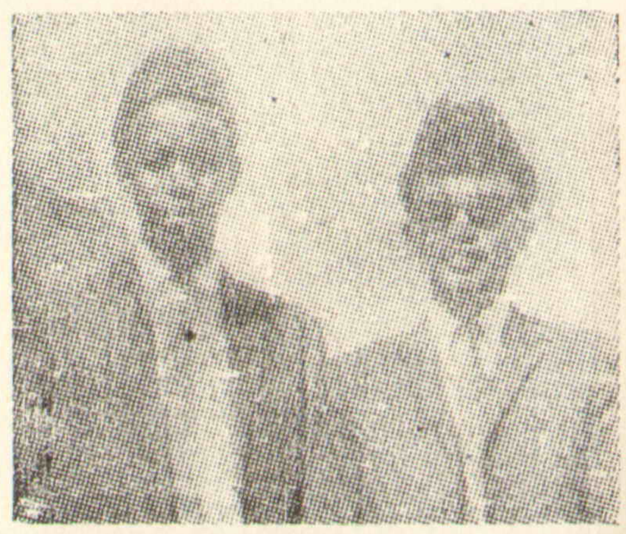
راجہ نصیر احمد صاحب

مجید احمد سیالکوٹی صاحب

Seen off at the railway station Rabwah

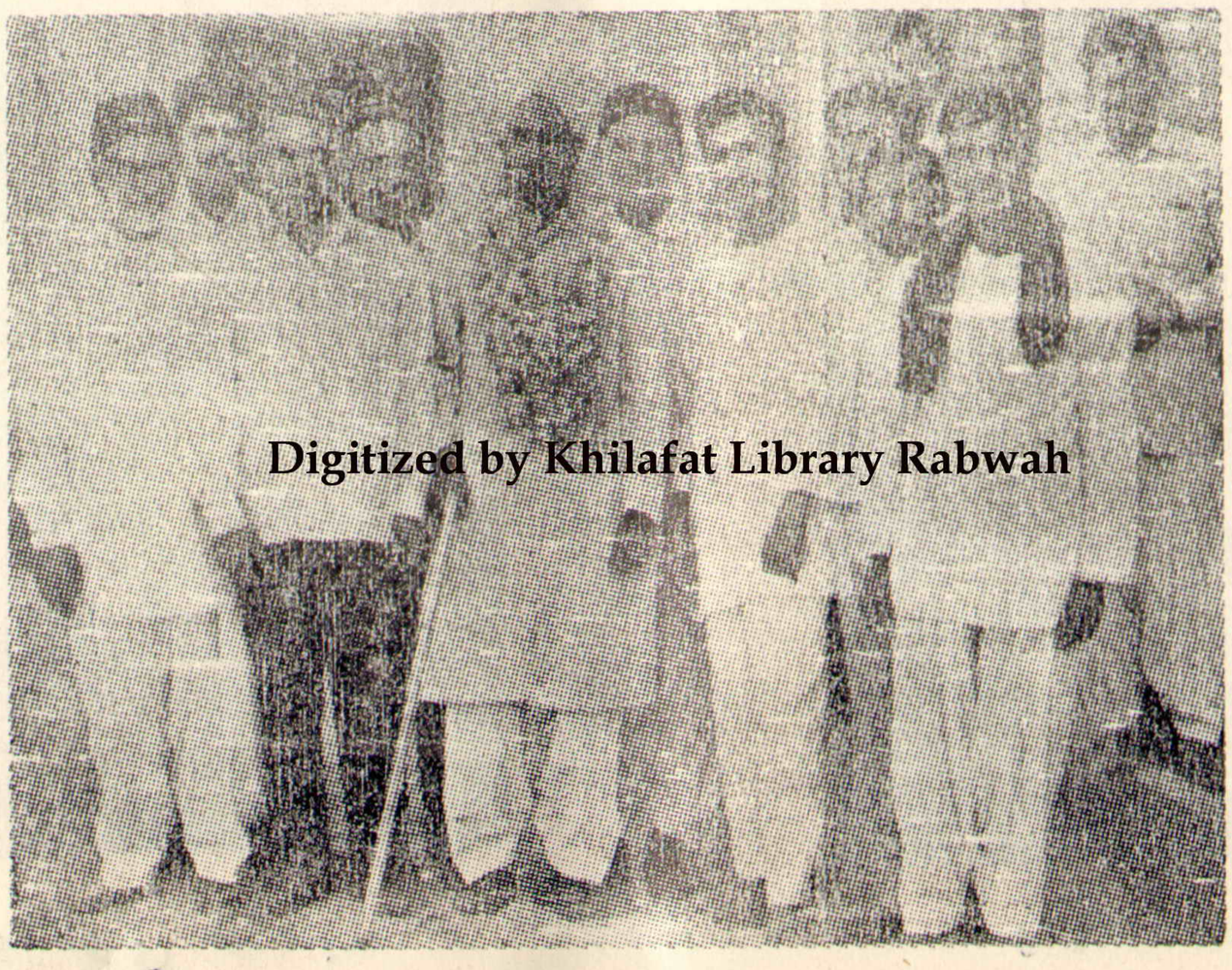
Raja Naseer Ahmad, Ashraf Ishaq & M. I. Munir
and others.

Sayuti Aziz
and
Mohammad Abdi



سیوطی عزیز صاحب اور
محمد عبدی صاحب

راجہ نصیراحمد صاحب ۔ اشرف اسحق صاحب اور محمد اسمعیل صاحب منیر



Chaudhry
Inayatullah
and
friends.

چوہدری عنایت اللہ
صاحب

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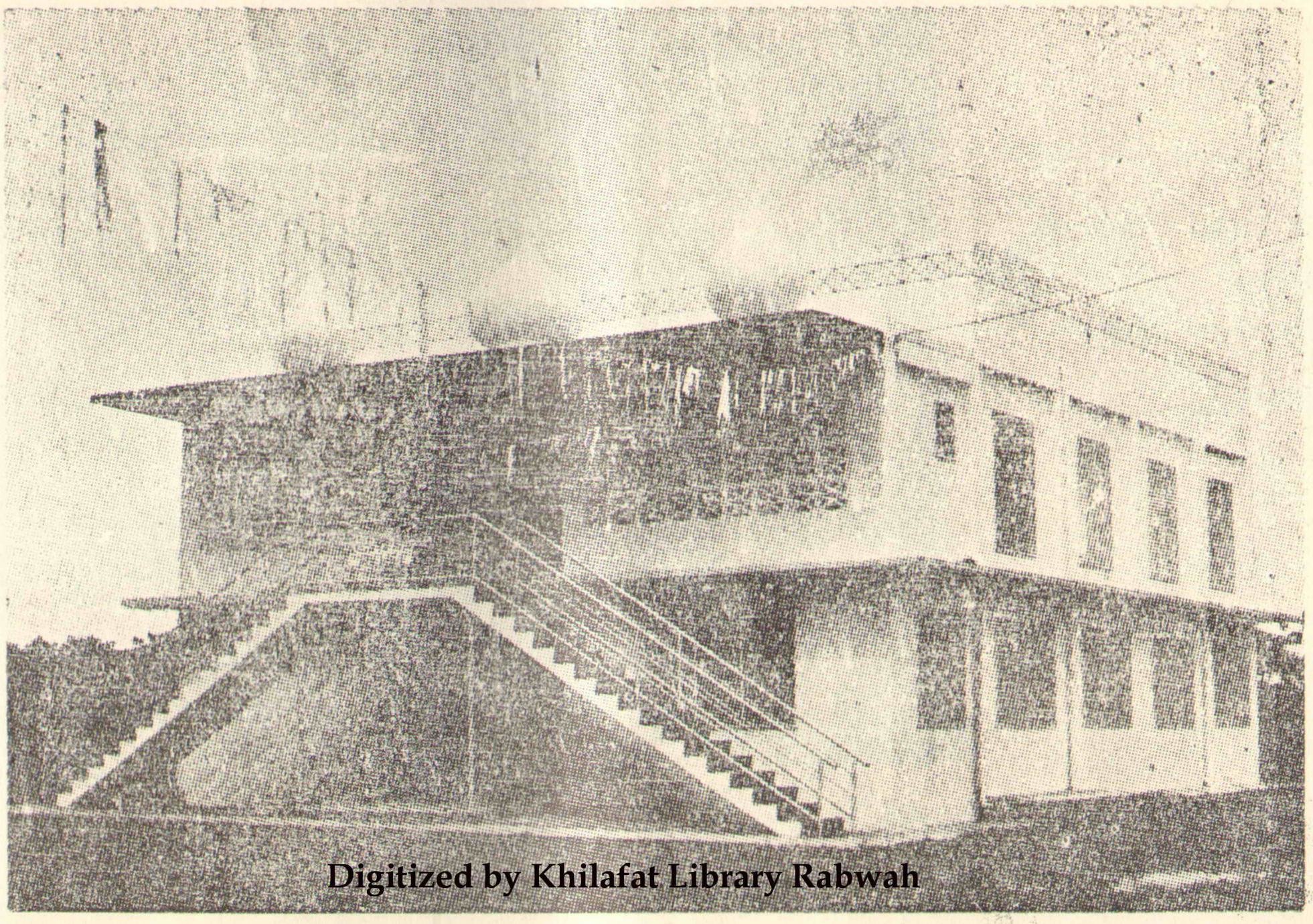
Masjid Mahmood, Maro, Fiji



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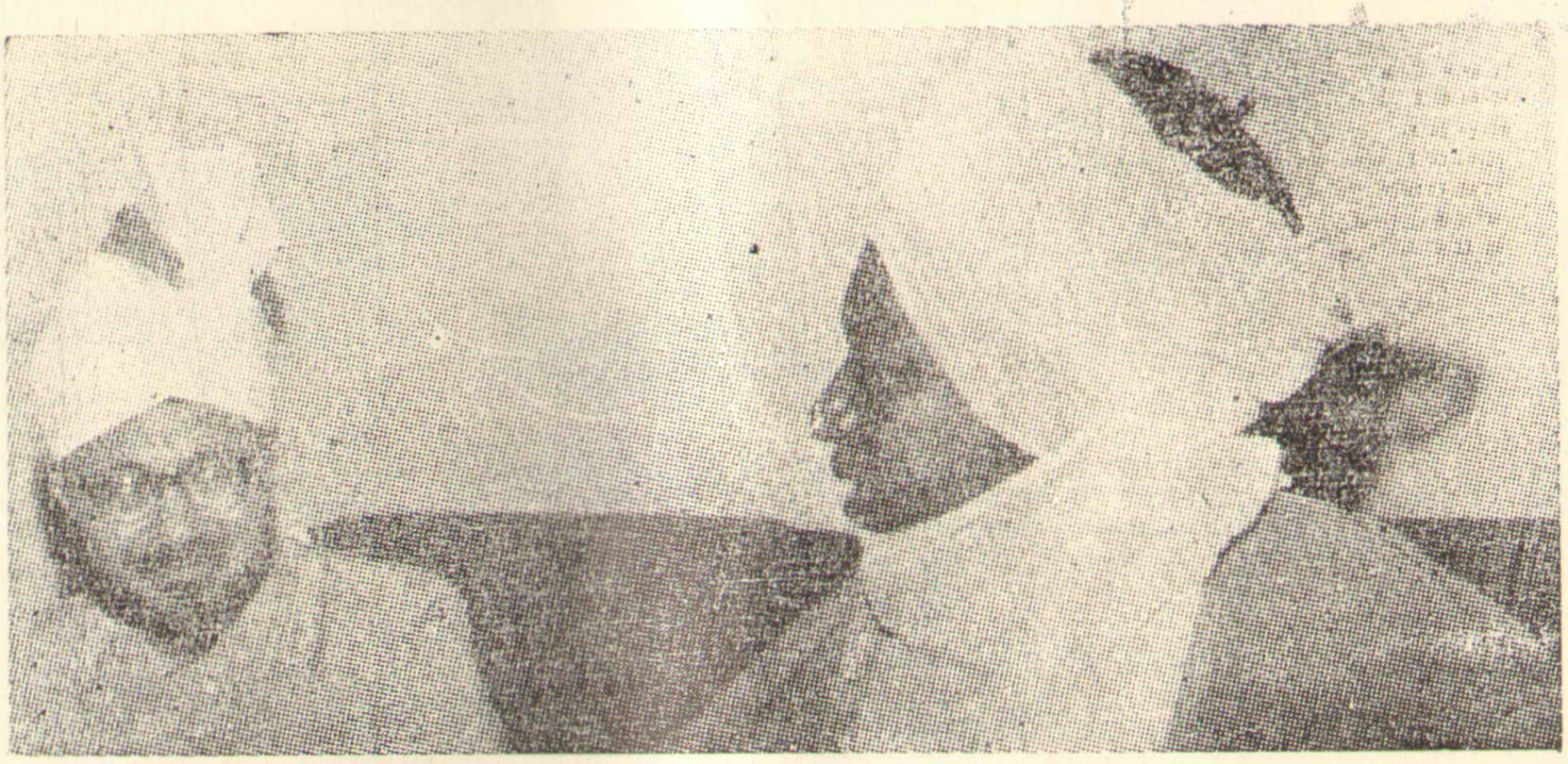
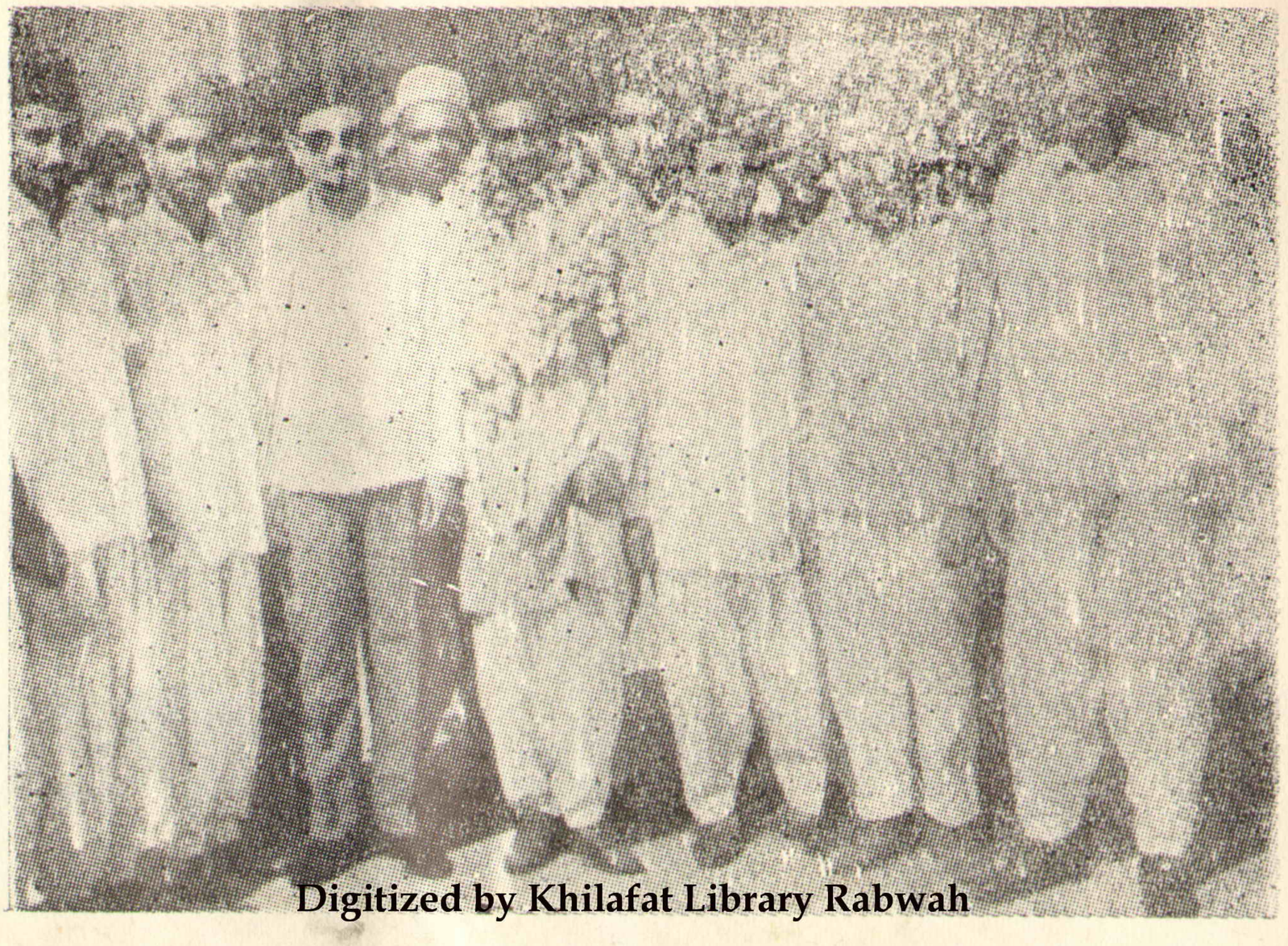
مسجد محمود ، مارو - فجی

Maulvi F. I. Anwari with H.H. Sultan of Sakoto (Nigeria)



مولوی فضل الٰہی صاحب انوری - سلطان آف شکوٹو کے ساتھ

Majeed Ahmad Sialkoti
and others
مجید احمد سیالکوٹی
کے ساتھ



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Maulvi Fazl Ilahi Anwari
فضل الٰہی صاحب انوری

Ch. Inayatullah
چوہدری عنایت اللہ صاحب